Night-time Exercises by Air Force fighters

3414. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air Force fighters carry out night-time exercises to enable them to practice and train for night-time combat;

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) whether such exercises are carried out away from towns and cities ;

(d) whether the Air Force pilots are equipped with night vision; and

(e) if yes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various air defence and ground attack exercises are carried out using fighters, helicopters and transport aircraft.

(c) Yes, all exercises are carried out awary from towns and cities.

(d) and (e) Yes; certain fleets have been fitted with Night Vision Goggles (NVG).

Use of B-4 defence lands for public purposes

3415. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of B-4 defence lands had been permitted so far by defence cantonment authorities in India for public purposes;

(b) if so, details thereof with regard to B-4 defence lands allotted so far in the past for public purposes;

(c) if so, will Government allot several defence B-4 vacant lands surrounded by massive civilian population for public purposes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Permissions have been granted in the past for temporary use/licensing of B-4 defence lands for public

purposes like holding of public meetings by political parties, religious/social functions, sports activities, parking of vehicles and exhibitions etc.

(c) and (d) As per the extant Defence land policy, no Defence land is to be declared surplus and if at all, any land is to be given up, it should be on the basis of exchange of equivalent value land. However, the policy provides for consideration of requests of State Governments/Central Government and the Public Sector Undertakings/Companies/Enterprises under their control, on the merits of each case.

Permission for single-storey houses in Secunderabad Cantonment

3416. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory to get No Objection Certificate from airlines authorities of Madras, even for single-storey houses by the people of Secunderabad cantonment;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government would revoke this rule by fixing the height of single storey houses in consultation with Airlines authorities and by confining the sanctioning power to Secunderabad cantonment board, to avoid hardships to common man; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (d) As per Government Notification issued in pursuance of Section 9A of Aircraft's Act, 1934, Airport Authority insists that any construction near Airport should have their '**No Objection**', if the structure crosses certain height owing to its distance from the runway. However, Cantonment Board, vide its Resolution No. 5 dated 4-11-1997 has decided not to insist on 'No Objection Certificate' from Airport Authority for single storied houses. For all other buildings, 'No Objection Certificate' is insisted upon by the Cantonment Board. No formal request however has been received from the Cantonment Board for revocation of the said rule.